

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

March, 2010



If I were to say “the best store in town is _____ because _____” how would you fill in those two blanks? There may be different reasons why you would label a store the “best.” It might be the service you received at the store. It might be the people in that store always remember your name. It might be that store sells, dollar

for dollar, the best product. Whatever the reason, that store has your loyalty.

There are similar types of stories here at Centenary. I think many of us could say, “Centenary is the best Church in town because....” and while I am very interested in hearing your stories, right now, I want to share some of mine.

In January of this year we heard of the devastating earthquake in the tiny nation of Haiti. I came asking for financial aid for people thousands of miles away that you would never know and you responded with great generosity. You gave over \$7,000 to Haiti through the United Methodist Council on Relief.

Cheryl shared with me of a time when you touched her heart in a special way. Approximately eight years ago we received the news that Cheryl’s mother had been diagnosed with brain cancer. Immediately, the ladies of Spirit Salon organized a church wide prayer vigil. Eight years later Cheryl’s mom is still with us and Cheryl has kept the list of those who participated in that prayer vigil as reminder of Centenary’s love and support.

Then there is the wonderful story of the vision of Pastor Sam Vorn, the leader of our Cambodian congregation. Pastor Sam came to us with a desire to build a medical clinic in Cambodia. This Church reached out in support of Pastor Sam and the Hallelujah Clinic is up and operating today.

I think of this past year when we announced the

opportunity to spend a Saturday in the airport district of Modesto, helping clean up that community. Forty of you showed up, ready to go to work despite the rain that decided to bless that particular Saturday.

I think of the Sunday when one of our “40 Days of Community” small groups held a bake sale for one of Cheryl’s co-workers stricken with cancer. You didn’t know this woman and yet you went out of your way to offer your prayers, your baked goods, and your good wishes for a speedy recovery.

My stories could go on and on, but now I am interested in hearing your stories. In fact, I would like to share your stories about Centenary with the entire Church family. To accomplish this, I would like you to write your story and send it to me. You can e-mail me at centenaryofmodesto@sbcglobal.net or mail your story to 1911 Toyon Ave. Modesto, Ca 95350. Or you can simply hand it to me at church.

I believe we are a blessed Church and we need to share our stories with others. Please join me in this.

Pastor Bob



March 28

Palm Sunday Services 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Brunch for DCU
following both services

April 3

No Saturday Night Worship

April 4

Easter Sunday Worship Services:

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



Lent

The Lenten season is now upon us. This season starts with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Lent is a season of renewal, and offers a special opportunity to remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us. Here are some ideas for activities you can do individually or as a family to help you reflect on the season:

Sacrifices and Commitments

Many people give up a favorite food or activity during Lent to practice sacrifice. Others choose to commit to an activity like daily prayer, Bible reading or regular volunteering. Whatever you and your family choose to do, a special focus on Jesus during Lent will renew and strengthen your faith.

Focus on Prayer

Discuss the different reasons we pray. Remember that Jesus prayed to God often (Luke 6:12). Pray together regularly this week.

Scripture to Read: Matthew 6:9-13

Focus on Self-Control

Discuss different areas of our lives that we can have self-control (eating out often or eating too much, accumulating too much stuff, using excessive energy or resources.) Decide as a family how you can use self-control this week.

Scripture to read together: Mark 8:34

Focus on Service to God

Discuss the different ways we can honor God through our actions (serving each other in our home, in our church and in our community.) Choose a service project to do as a family.

Scripture to read together: Matthew 25:34-40

Focus on Forgiveness

Discuss the different ways we make bad choices and how those choices can hurt others. Talk about how we need to forgive others and ask for forgiveness ourselves. Practice this week.

Scripture to read together: Ephesians 2:4-5

Focus on Faith

Discuss the reasons we have faith in God and our Savior Jesus Christ, and how that faith gives us a firm foundation in life. Look for God sightings (signs of God's grace and beautiful creation) to reflect on or share with each other throughout the week. Remember that it's okay to have questions, even Jesus' friends, the Disciples, asked lots of questions.

Scripture to read together: John 14:1-6

Palm Sunday - March 28

One Week before Easter

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with a Palm Parade at the beginning of each worship service.

Holy Week

Week 6 of Lent

During this special week we remember the events leading up to Jesus' death and His Resurrection. As a family discuss why Jesus did what He did (so that we can have a relationship with God and have eternal life with Him.) Attend special worship services together.

Scripture to read together: Luke 19:28-38

Maundy Thursday - April 1

This is a special service to remember Jesus' final commandment to "love one another." Maundy means mandate or command. Typically we focus on The Last Supper and Communion.

Good Friday - April 2

This is a special reflective service with a focus on the cross and the sacrifice Jesus made.

Easter Sunday - April 4

We celebrate the Risen Christ! "He is Risen...He is Risen Indeed!" Attend this most joyous worship celebration.

Scripture to read together: Luke 24:1-9

March 28

Palm Sunday Brunch

*Join us in the
Fellowship Center
following both services
for a delicious Brunch.*

*Proceeds to Benefit
Donetsk Christian University*



*We also need help with food prep,
decorations, servers, clean-up...*

*Please call the church office
at 527-5441 if you can help.*

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

**A chance to honor and remember those whose
lives have been touched by cancer
while supporting the work of the
American Cancer Society.**

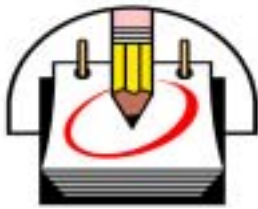
Pick up orders after worship services on:

*Saturday March 27
Sunday March 28*



MARCH

March	8	Board of Trustees Meeting
March	11	Staff Parish Relations Committee
March	15	Finance Committee Meeting
March	15	Missions Committee Meeting
March	16	Children's Ministry Meeting
March	18	Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
March	27	Easter Eggstravaganza
March	28	Palm Sunday & Mission Brunch
March	28	Congregational Blood Pressure Screening
March	29	Ad Council Meeting



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- MEN'S FRATERNITY - Rm. 1 7:00 A.M.
- CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.
- ADULT SUNDAY CLASS - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.
- TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.
- CAMBODIAN WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.
- JR. & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL Rm. 4/5 10:30 A.M.

MONDAY

- BETH MOORE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 6 6:00 P.M.
- YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - Rm. 18 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY

- MOM2MOM - Rm. 6 9:10 - 11:00 A.M.
- THRIFT SHOP 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - PERKO'S MCHENRY AVE. 6:00 A.M.
- SPIRIT SALON - Rm. 6 9:00 A.M.
- WNL - FELLOWSHIP CENTER
- DINNER 5:30 P.M./CLASSES 6:30 P.M.
- JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY

- PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.

SATURDAY

- CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.

Happy
St. Patrick's Day
March 17th



Birthdays of the Month



3/1	SARIN BY	3/12	GARY LOVE
3/1	GERALD THIEMANN	3/12	MELISSA MELTON
3/1	GAIL VICK	3/12	KEN KLINE
3/2	PAUL STAFFORD	3/13	RITA BUCHANAN
3/2	MELANIE TABAI	3/14	BILL WATSON
3/2	BEN HELM	3/14	TOMMY KAISER
3/2	SUSAN McCLANAHAN	3/14	BOB ECKLES
3/3	OLIVER ARMSTRONG	3/16	SONNY SATH
3/3	SUSAN AZEVEDO	3/17	MIKE WADE
3/4	GERALD UNDERWOOD	3/17	BRENDA MUTUMA
3/4	PAT REID	3/17	ALEXANDRIA CATON
3/4	JIM McCORMICK	3/18	SHIRLEE COURT
3/4	JANET LEWIS	3/20	BRAD BOYD
3/5	JEANNETTE CHAPMAN	3/20	ERIC MILLER
3/5	DRU EDGAR	3/20	MARK VASCHE
3/6	PAM DARR	3/22	ROLAND GUILLES
3/6	ED GSCHIEDLE	3/23	CAROLINE FORBES
3/6	PENNEY WEINHEIMER	3/24	DEE WENGEL
3/7	ALYSSA MAAS	3/25	KYLE WEINHEIMER
3/8	LETA LONG	3/25	SIDARATH CHHUOY
3/8	ERIKA CUMMINGS	3/25	SYDA MOEUN
3/8	VEASNA TEK	3/25	SARALEE MOORAD
3/8	POLLY VASCHE	3/26	BARBARA HENRICH
3/9	SOPHIA KOOMSON	3/26	DOTTIE AZLIN
3/9	SHARON PERRY	3/26	ROGER YOUNGER
3/9	MILDRED MARTIN	3/26	KEITH SCOTT
3/10	GARRETT AMERINE	3/27	LOWELL CLARK
3/10	DON STOUTAMIRE	3/27	CHUCK DARR
		3/29	ALISSA COLLINS
		3/29	MOLLIE HORTON
		3/29	ISAAC KOOMSON
		3/29	EVANELL MARLOW
		3/29	LINNEIA NOTTLEY
		3/30	BRAD BARNES
		3/30	LINDA JOLLIFF
		3/30	LILY HINRICHS
		3/31	ROBBIE CUMMINS
		3/31	JOE SALTS

It is not our intention to overlook your birthday. If your birthday was not listed, please call the church office @ 527-5441 and let us know, so that we can update our records. Thank You!

Do you have information that you would like to submit for publication in the Circuit Rider? Please keep these deadlines in mind for upcoming issues:

**April : March 11th
May: April 15th
June: May 13th
July: June 10th**





Save the Date!!!
Women of Faith 2010

November 12-13
Sacramento, Arco Arena
\$89 per person plus lodging

Imagine

Imagine what it would be like
if the God who created us was
willing and able to provide
exactly what we need.
Why would He do that?
Because He loves us.
He loves YOU.
Imagine that!

Imagine having two days focused on
God and His love for you.
Join us for two days filled with
laughter, music, and stories that
make you chuckle even as you
wipe away a knowing tear.
Don't miss it!



As we say good-bye to February, we are getting ready for a marvelous month of March. It was nice to see the sun shine for a few days in between the rain storms in February. Soon, we'll see if March will come in like a lion or a lamb. Either way, we know Spring will be here soon, bringing more sunny days.

Our theme for the first part of February was "love one another." For chapel the children learned that 1 John 4:7 instructs us to "love one another, for love is from God." They learned that we need to practice being kind and caring to our family and friends. It is such a joy to teach them about God's unconditional love for us. It's important that children learn at a very young age that no matter what we do God will forgive us. What a powerful lesson to learn that nothing is bigger than our Father's love for us.

The children enjoyed a teddy bear brunch on February 10th. Each child brought a teddy bear that was unique and special to them. They had fun sharing snacks, lunch, naptime, and a story with their teddy bears! Also the children got in touch with their creative sides as they made valentines for their parents and decorated a bag or box for the valentine exchange.

We had a great time learning about pets the last two weeks of February. The children enjoyed bringing pictures of their pets and telling about how special their pets are to them. They learned that most people have dogs and cats for pets, but some people have birds, rats, frogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, fish and even snakes!

Since March is such a great month to have "fun with the wind and weather," we made it our theme for the first part of March. The last half of March we'll study "dinosaurs." Children are always fascinated with these prehistoric creatures, so we have much to look forward to. Our chapel themes for March will be trust (Isaiah 26:4), strength (Isaiah 40:29), rejoice (Matthew 5:12), and honesty (Prov. 12:22).

I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely Valentine's Day with their loved ones. We want to thank all of you for your continued support and prayers.

Janet Lewis
Preschool Director



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

CHOICES

Looking back to 2009, it was a rough year for many people. We can let bad times make us bitter - or better. I think that often God gives us more chances than we are willing to give ourselves.

We beat ourselves up for not eating the right foods, for not exercising, and for not accomplishing things we think we SHOULD have accomplished. But, it is a NEW year and we have some choices to make... Every day, we are faced with choices.

William James stated, "When you have a choice to make and don't make one, that in itself is a choice."

S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics meets in the Fellowship Center:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
and Mon. - Thurs. - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
(High or Low Impact)
Tues. & Thurs. - 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
(Non-Impact/Seniors)
For More Information Call:
Sandra Hegwood @ 988-5655



Women's Fun & Fellowship

We have been having a wonderful time getting to know each other and learning to play new games together. We have gone to the movies, out to breakfast and had potlucks. We would love for you to join us. Call Lin Herron or Shirley Miller with your ideas and suggestions of what you would like to do as a group. Movie time anyone?

March 16th we are looking forward to hosting a St. Patrick's Day Cabbage Dinner at Lin Herron's house. We also hope to play cards.

Easter is coming and before we know it Spring will be here. We are planning a picnic lunch after church to Knights Ferry for the afternoon. Rides will be provided.

Annie Get Your Gun production will be on April 24 and May 2, at Downey High School. Put your request to attend in; more information about this event later.



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

It's hard to believe, but we're already making Easter plans! Our Easter Eggstravaganza will be March 27th, the Saturday before Palm Sunday. This event is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to hear the Easter story, fellowship with other families, participate in a hands-on activity and prepare for Holy Week. We finish off the morning with a huge egg hunt outside!

We can't do this alone. We need your help! Please help us get the word out by passing on an extra flyer to someone you know. This is a great time to invite a family you know through your neighborhood, your workplace or your friends. We also need some supplies for the hunt. Last year we filled over 1000 plastic, colorful eggs for the egg hunt. We plan on needing even more this year! The next time you're out, please pick up a package of plastic eggs or a bag of individually wrapped candy and bring them to the church office or to the basket in the back of the Sanctuary.

We will be serving snack to the families that morning and we'll need help preparing and serving. We also need greeters for our Easter Eggstravaganza. If you are able to help, please let me know. Finally, but most importantly, we need you to wrap this event in prayer. Our goal is to reach out to new families across Modesto and offer them more than just an Easter egg hunt – we want to offer them hope in Christ. Please pray that we can reach people with His message.

We appreciate your help and your prayers for our Easter Eggstravaganza!

In His Service,

Heather Daniel
Director of Children's Ministry
527-5441
hethdaniel@yahoo.com

New in the Library

A rabbi, a priest, and a minister wanted to see who was best at his job. They agreed to go into the woods, each find a bear and try to convert it. Later they met to report how successful they had been. The minister said the bear let the minister baptize him. The priest was successful too, but when they looked down at the rabbi lying on a gurney in a body cast, he told them, "Perhaps I shouldn't have started with circumcision!"

So if you want to learn about items concerning different religious beliefs, come to Centenary's Church Library. There are lots of books to help you there! On the Religious History shelves is "Religions of the World Made Simple," by John Lewis. This is a comprehensive review presented simply and clearly. On the Christian Living shelves is a book with a unique title: "I'll Bring the Chocolate." We chocoholics will like this book which blends true stories with Biblical examples thus satisfying a craving for friendship and faith. Biographies are usually interesting and in this section is "Bryson City Tales," stories of a young doctor's first year of practice set in the Smoky Mountains. This brings you the feeling of homespun warmth of a small town. The author is Dr. Walt Larimore. Those of you who listen to "The Hour of Power" on tv Sunday mornings will find Pastor Robert H. Schuller's book, "My Journey" on the Biography shelves. This is the story of his journey from an Iowa farm to a "Cathedral of Dreams."

~ Margaret Bell



Alberta Martone's daughter Cheryl has written *Shaking Hands with Cancer and Coming Out Fighting*, an excellent book about her experiences as a cancer survivor. But it is more about conquering obstacles and overcoming challenges. It is in our Church Library. Read it and be inspired!

 Centenary United Methodist
Church

1911 Toyon Avenue
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 527-5441
www.centenarychurch.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Easter Eggstravaganza 2010

Your family is invited to attend
Centenary's annual "Eggstravaganza"!

Saturday, March 27th
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3 through sixth grade
Nursery care available upon request
for infants & toddlers
(please call to request nursery care by March 24)

Join us for an egg hunt, fun hands-on
activities, and a special Easter message!
Please RSVP to Heather at 527-5441
or hethdaniel@yahoo.com